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DEPOSITED: APRIL 3, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail" addressed to the Box Patent Application; Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Signed:

John W. Crosby
 John W. Crosby

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

WEHRUNG, et al.

Serial No.: **To be assigned**

Filing Date: **To be assigned**

For: **Distributed Control System
Architecture and Method for a
Material Transport System**

Examiner: **To be assigned**

Group Art Unit: **To be assigned**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Box PATENT APPLICATION FEE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is directed to the Continuation Application filed herewith and is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 6, 2000, a copy of which is attached for your convenience. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Unchanged) A distributed control system for a material transport system, comprising:
 a high-level controller;
 at least one mid-level controller coupled to the high level controller; and